

-Antonio Machado

a tribute to antonia pantoja

# LAS MADRINAS DE ASPIRA FEDERATION OF PUERTO RICAN PARENTS AND

#### **ASPIRA**

WELCOME YOU TO

A TRIBUTE TO ANTONIA PANTOJA

Saturday Evening, April 6, 1968

Grand Ballroom

The Commodore Hotel



"... Take a look around. Look at the people sitting near you and remember those faces—for someday in the near future you may see those people representing our community in all phases of leadership."

EUGENE BARRIOS, President Aspira Clubs Federation



No one ever told Antonia Pantoja that "the road is made by walking". She seems to have discovered it all by herself.

The road she made started in San Juan, led to a school in the mountains where she was a leacher, and then took her to New York. There she held a rumber of factory jobs and learned for berself something of the language and cultural obstacles Puerto Ricans confront when they arrive from the Island.

With the guidance of some friends she found her way to the Union Settlement House in East Harlem and was first enabled to apply her education and skills to the problems of young Puertoriqueños Neuvorquinos.

Then, in succession, came a scholarship and fellowship aid making it possible for her to attend Hunter College and Columbia University School of Social Work where she completed her Master's degocal

In 1956, while working for the New York Caty's Commission on Intergroup Relations, Toni brought together a representative group of leaders to found the Puerto Rican Forum. At the same time, convinced that the Puerto Rican community could make progress only to the extent that its vouth was making. progress, she originated the ASPIRA idea.

Expert at inspiring confidence and persuading others to her cause she developed support among foundations and brought ASPIRA into being in 1961.

While directing ASPIRA during its formative years, the gave leudership to the Forum and organized the first comprehensive study of the Puerto Rican community in 1963. Her influence and the ideas spread, She became a consultant to the Board of Education in New York, the University of Puerto Rico, and the Commenwealth's Department of Education, She worked with the Citizens Committee for Children. She has sught at Columbia University and the New School. And, in 1967, the was elected a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention and, also, aption of the School design and the Comment of the State Constitutional stays Panel on Decentralization of the School.

The youngsters Toni encouraged and inspired only a handful of years ago already are returning to the community as committed leaders. These young professionals, in education and counseling, in government, and in community agencies, are there because of her and the work she has accomplished. They are testimony to an idea. They are the evidence that the road can be made by walking.

#### MENU

Supreme of Fresh Fruit Royale

Posage Mongole

Prime Ribs of Beef au Jus Anna Potatoes Asparagus Tips Polonaise

Mixed Green Salad

Frozen Soufile Alaska

Coffee

#### A TRIBUTE TO ANTONIA PANTOJA

April 6, 1968

Commodore Hotel

#### PROGRAM INVOCATION:

INVOCATION

Rev. Joseph Fitzpatrick, S.J.

Rev. Ruben Dario Colon

WELCOME:

Gilbert Ortiz, M.D.
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Aspira

GREETINGS:

Mrs. Carmen Fisher

Julio Fernández

Federation of Puerto Rican Parents

Manuel Samulot
Chairman, Steering Committee

#### "Antonia Pantoja - Footsteps that Made the Road"

Mrs. Matilde Pérez de Silva former Director of Social Services, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

Frank Horne former Director, N.Y.C. Commission on Interproup Relations

Josephine Nieves
U. S. Office of Economic Opportunity

Henry Cohen former Deputy Administrator, City of New York

Louis Nuñez

Executive Director, Aspina Carmen Morales

Aspiranse and student at Mills College

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
Miss Antonia Pantoja

CLOSING REMARKS:

Samuel J. Silberman Board of Governors, Aspira

Dancing to the music of MACHITO AND HIS ORCHESTRA



ASPIRA, Inc. is a privately run, non-profit, professionally staffed, Puerto Rican agency dedicated to fostering post-secondary education for the city's many qualified Puerto Rican teenagers.

Founded in 1961, it now actively services 3000 students, 500 parents, and 300 adults. The agency operates through four centers in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx; 52 school and church based ASPIRA clubs; and, the Scholarship and Loan Center. It has a staff of 60, of whom more than half are trained educators, commonity organizers and counselons.

#### WHY ASPIRA IS NEEDED

ASPIRA is needed because there are close to 40,000 Poerto Ricans in the city's high schools who, without the kind of aid ASPIRA offers are simply not going to make it.

Today, no more than a few thousand of these students are staying in shool long enough to be graduated. Of those who do, an estimated 5% are continuing on to post-secondary education, as compared to 37% of high school graduates nationally.

For most young Puerto Rican New Yorkers, the world of higher education is so far removed from the daily environment that it is little more than a dream. Poverty, on the other hand, it a grim and ever present reality as are peejudice and siculation from both the mainstream of American society and the sustaining values of their own culture and traditions. The perpetuation of this bleak pattern would be inevitable without ASPIRA's recognition.

#### DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

ASPIRA's founders, Board of Directors, and professional staff are langely Putro Rioan New Yorkers, whose earlier lives paralleled those of the students they work with. Not only are they personally familiae with the problems and needs of these students, but they serve as models for youngsters who, in many cases, have never come in contact with a successful or educated Puero Rican. Additionally, ASPIRA's program is guested specifically to able teenagers who, given a minimal investment in time and money, could form not metely a new middle class but a trained, concrend leadership in the Puerto Rican commonity.

#### HOW THE ASPIRA PROGRAM WORKS

ASPIRA's program offers the student:

#### EDUCATIONAL ORIENTATION

guidance in selecting the most suitable school and courses; tutoring in language and special subjects; financial aid; help in securing available scholarships; the seeking out of new sources of scholarship funds, (In 1967, ASPIRA members exceived \$197,000 in scholarships, grants and loans. At ASPIRA's and tuttiers of over 50 leading-ottes and universities; gather to meet and interview ASPIRANTES.)



#### STRENGTHENING OF SELF-IDENTITY

through first-hand knowledge of Puerto Rican leaders and their achievements and the rich cultural beritage of Puerto Rico; and through frank and revealing discussions of the troubling personal problems stemming from community prejudice.



#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTIVE FELLOW.

SHIP through the democratically organized and operated ASPIRA Clubs Federation.



#### A TRIBUTE TO ANTONIA PANTOJA

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#### A TRIBUTE TO ANTONIA PANTOJA

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Charman of the Board

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"There is no greater accomplishment possible for a nation than the fullest development of its human resources. Economic progress is based on this, and economic progress is based on this, and economic progress determines the bealthy social development of a nation. ASPIRA has assured the nutruting and guidance of this invaluable resource in a significant and vital community. The effects will one day be felt nationwisk."



SAMUEL J. SILBERMAN Chairman of the Board Consolidated Cigar Corporation

"... I am thinking particularly of boys and girls with real ability, and the very basic human need to fulfill that ability I am thinking about the needless past waster of such potential talent. ASPIRA is reversing this waste process. For thousands of young men and women, it is spelling the difference between the perpetuation of failute and a meaningful, useful life.

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Hon. ROBERTO SANCHEZ-VILELLA Governor, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

> Hon. JOHN V. LINDSAY Mayor, City of New York

#### A BROAD BASE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

ASPIRA is a tax exempt, non-poolit agency devining the basic support from parvate baunesses, foundations, labor organizations, and individuals Athrough servbe grainst from the U.S. Office of Education, the New York. City Communaly Development Agency and the Common-wealth of Puerro Rico now help ASPIRA to mere a large port of its operating cost, it remains a private agency. Its main tensace and growth depend upon the tota, overminity's increasing recognition of its scalar line.



Aspirantes and Staff Members meet frequently with business leaders to develop greater mutual understanding.



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ASPIRA CLUBS FEDERATION

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pay tribute to

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Our Mentor



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Salutes

MISS ANTONIA PANTOJA

"¡Ahl, la aspiración total del hombre debe exceder a su alcance real.

¿Para qué, si no es así, existe un Cielo?"

- Robert Browning

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## SINCE 1929



Salutes

ANTONIA PANTOJA

# Greetings Amalgamated Clothing Workers America



#### THE AMALGAMATED CLOTHING WORKERS OF AMERICA AFL CIO

Salutes

Antonia Pantoja

and

ASPIRA

#### The Impossible Dream

(From the musical play "Man of Le Manche", words by Joe Darlon, music by Mitch Leigh)

To dream the impossible dream,

To fight the unbeatable foe,

To bear with unbearable sorrow.

To run where the brave dare not go.

To reach the unreachable star!

This is my quest, to follow that star,

No matter how hopeless, no matter how far;

To fight for the right without question or pause,

To be willing to march into hell for a heavenly cause!

And I know, if I'll only be true

To this glorious quest, That my heart will lie peaceful and calm,

When I'm laid to my rest,

And the world will be better for this:

That one man, scorned and covered with scars,

Still strove with his last ounce of courage, To reach the unreachable stars.

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To those who try ... and help others to try!

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DR. and MRS. GILBERT ORTIZ

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#### ANTONIA PANTOJA

a devoted member of the Spanish Community

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